DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims **1-6, 9 and 12-16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Mikame (Patent Number: 6144920)**.

Regarding claim **1**: Mikame discloses a digital map display method including the steps:

a) determining a position of a display device for the digital map (**see at least fig. 11a**).

b) displaying the digital map at a first scale (**see at least abstract**).

c) determining a number of objects of a required category that occupy a predetermined area of the digital map as displayed (**see at least abstract**).

d) comparing the number with at least one set number of objects (**see at least fig. 2**).

e) if the number is different to the set number, changing the first scale to a second scale (**see at least fig. 2**).

Regarding claim **2**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein if the number is greater than the at least one set number, the second scale is smaller than the first scale (**see at least fig. 2**).

Regarding claim **3**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein if the number is smaller than the at least one set number, the second scale is larger than the first scale (**see at least**

fig. 3).

Regarding claim **4**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein if the number is the same as the at least one set number, the first scale remains unchanged **(see col. 4, lines 1-67)**.

Regarding claim **5**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one set number is a range between a maximum number and a minimum number **(see at least fig. 3)**.

Regarding claim **6**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the second scale is a fixed percentage of the first scale, the second scale being greater than the first scale if the number of objects is less than the minimum number, and is less than the first scale if the number of objects is greater than the maximum number **(see fig. 2, fig. 3. and col. 4, line 1-67)**.

Regarding claim **9**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined area of the display is a percentage of an area occupied by the display device height and width **(see at least col. 3, lines 13-26)**.

Regarding claim **12**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the position is determined using GPS **(see fig. 1)**.

Regarding claim **13**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the required category is one or more selected from the group consisting of: buildings, places of interest,

intersections, road, parcel of land, and lot of land (see fig. 6A).

Regarding claim **14**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the digital map is a vector map **(see fig. 4 A-C)**.

Regarding claim **15**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the number of objects is determined from at least one layer of a plurality of layers of the digital map **(see at least col. 4, lines 1-11)**.

Regarding claim **16**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the number of objects is obtained by a scan of the digital map as displayed **(see at least fig. 9)**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(**a**) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims **7, 8, 10 and 11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(**a**) as being unpatentable over **Mikame (Patent Number: 6144920)**.

Regarding **7, 8, 10 and 11**: Mikame discloses the invention except for the percentages and ranges disclosed in these claims. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the

art at the time the invention was made to adjust the ranges and percentages accordingly, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Allier, 105 USPQ 233.

Claims **17-22** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103**(a)** as being unpatentable over **Mikame (Patent Number: 6144920)in view of DeLorme et al (Patent Number: 6321158)**.

Regarding claim **17**: Mikame discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, **but does not explicitly disclose** wherein the display is a split display having a left screen and a right screen having displays at different scales. **However, DeLorme et al discloses this limitation, see fig. 1B-C. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of DeLorme in Mikame method for a better view of the map.**

Regarding claim **18**: The combination of Mikame and DeLorme disclose a method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the display of the right screen is of a larger scale than the display of the left screen, and the map displayed in the left screen forms an area immediately around the position as displayed in the right screen **(see DeLorme, fig. 1N)**.

Regarding claim **19**: Mikame discloses a digital map display method including the steps:

(a) determining a position of a display device for the digital map **(see at least fig. 11a)**.

(b) **Mikame does not explicitly disclose** displaying the digital map at a first scale on a first part of a display screen of the display device. **However, DeLorme et al discloses this limitation, see fig. 1B-C. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of DeLorme in Mikame method for a better view of the map.**

(c) on a second part of the display screen of the display device displaying at a smaller scale that part of the digital map surrounding the position, wherein the first part of a display screen is of the exact location within a relatively small geographical area that forms the area immediately around the position in the map of the second part of the display screen (**see DeLorme, at least fig. 1B-C**).

Regarding claim **20**: The combination of Mikame and DeLorme disclose a method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the first part is a right display and the second part is a left display (**see DeLorme, at least fig. 1B-C**).

Regarding claim **21**: The combination of Mikame and DeLorme disclose a method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the split is horizontal or vertical(**see DeLorme, at least fig. 1B-C**).

Claim 22 is rejected in using the same prior art and same rationales as claim 1 above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HELAL A. ALGAHAIM whose telephone number is (571)270-5227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack W. Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/H. A. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 3663

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